

to the foreign operations appropriations bill. We could have votes on cloture or clotures before the week is over, and we could, of course, have votes if they are called for with regard to Executive Calendar items.

I want to assure Senators, not only will we be having votes; I am going to make sure we have votes, probably more than normal, just to bring the point home clearly that Senator DASCHLE and I have kept our word to Senators this year. We told Senators in January this is when we will be in, having votes, and this is when we will be out. So far we have kept our word to the day on every one of those, both when we would be in and when we would be out.

So this is going to be a busy week. I know it takes a little time to get up and running again after you have been gone for a few days or a few weeks, but it is important that we make progress this week. Of course, next week we will not be in session on Monday because that is Labor Day.

I believe that is all I would have to say at this time, Mr. President. I look forward to meeting with leadership on both sides of the aisle this afternoon or tomorrow, and I will be talking to Senators about the need to be here and debate amendments and to have legislation prepared to be brought up for them. I do want to say that I expect to file a cloture motion on missile defense sometime soon, and I do expect to file a cloture motion, probably on Friday, with regard to bankruptcy reform.

So those are two issues that will at least begin to be considered this week, even though we may not be able to complete them until next week.

I yield the floor. Mr. President, I observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### A TRIBUTE TO KENT HALL

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, my Senate family suffered a tragic loss Friday night. My Chief of Staff, Kent Hall, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. I have lost a dear friend and a trusted adviser. North Dakota has lost a strong and able advocate.

Kent Hall worked for me my entire tenure in the U.S. Senate. I can still remember my job interview with him in 1987. It took place in my makeshift office in the Hart Senate Office Building. I had a jelly doughnut sitting on my desk, and Kent commented to me as we began the interview that if I ate a doughnut every day I would gain 25 pounds in a year.

Along with his terrific sense of humor and his assurance, Kent brought with him a remarkable ability to ana-

lyze events. He was trained as an economist and he was always calm, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Kent Hall drafted the first speech that I ever gave in the U.S. Senate. It was entitled "For North Dakota's Future and America's Future." It was about the policies that would be necessary to stabilize the commodity-driven income of a State like North Dakota.

Although Kent began in my office as my chief agricultural aide, he was later promoted to Legislative Director and then to Chief of Staff. Throughout his twelve years with me, he always gave a thorough and complete analysis to whatever problem was before us.

Kent was interested in issues and he was interested in improving conditions for people. That is what motivated him, that is what drove him. He was especially interested in farm families because he had grown up on a farm in Iowa and he had relatives who were still on the farm, so he had a special understanding of their needs. He had special expertise in agricultural economics.

I can remember very well Kent Hall working all night, during the drought of 1988, to devise a disaster assistance formula that would be most favorable to North Dakota. Kent was a perfectionist, and he was ready to do whatever it took to get things right. He was so committed that he was willing to stay up all night to make sure that what we were doing would get the job done. That was Kent Hall.

I remember him staying weekends and holidays during the flood disasters of last year. In fact, during that entire year I think he took one day off. I remember him working this year as the agricultural crisis spread across our State, working unceasingly to help our farmers.

More than that, though, Kent had a special way about him. He brought a calmness to an office. He brought a calmness to a situation. He had a twinkle in his eye because, as he always liked to remind us, he was an Irishman. So today he would want us to think about the good things and to celebrate his life.

This morning we had a chance, with Reverend Ogilvie, to share with the members of my staff and his widow the life that Kent Hall lived. He lived life fully, he loved life, and, most of all, he loved his family. He leaves behind two young children. He leaves behind a wonderful wife.

Even his marriage was not uneventful. He married Michelle Reilly, who works for Senator HARKIN, in March of 1993. I don't think anybody will forget that day. It was the worst snowstorm in 20 years. It shut down the entire city, but Kent Hall was undeterred. No snowstorm could stop Kent, and that wedding went on. Many friends celebrated it.

Their wedding, in fact, occurred very close to St. Patrick's Day, which was almost like a holy day to Kent Hall. I

still have staff who remember the St. Patrick's Day parties at his home. There was always green beer, and lots of it, and everyone was welcome.

The births of Kent and Reilly's two children, Caiti and Austin, were the highlights of his life. He talked about them all the time. My staff and I always knew when they had said their first word, taken their first step, or even if they just kept Kent awake during the night.

Those of us who knew and loved Kent Hall will miss him terribly. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and children today and in the days to come.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I join my colleague and friend, Senator CONRAD, in paying tribute to a friend of mine—for over 25 years now, a fellow public servant, a fellow Iowan. It was perhaps one of the saddest phone calls I ever received in my life when I was notified Saturday morning that Kent Hall had died Friday night. He was a young man in the prime of his life. It just was a terrible shock.

There are no words to convey to his family and his many friends the shock and the disbelief and the sadness that I feel about this great loss.

Kent Hall, as I said, was a friend of mine for 25 years. Kent first came to work on my first congressional campaign in 1972. Both of us had been in the military. He had served in Italy. We both felt it was vitally important that we bring the Vietnam war to a swift conclusion. Too many of our friends had lost their lives in Vietnam. We saw the futility of it. So much of our campaign in 1972 was directed at the war. That's why Kent was one of my principal campaign workers that year.

He was a student at Iowa State University then. We did not win that election, but I did fairly well. We stayed at it, and I ran again in 1974. By then, Kent was in graduate school at Iowa State and then became a full-time campaign worker on my 1974 campaign, and we won that election.

He was just a tremendously hard worker. He was very good at getting people involved, especially a lot of the students at Iowa State. Kent even got some of the local high school students involved in the campaign. He inspired them, he got them involved, and he really represented the best of what it means to be in politics. There was never anything underhanded or dirty about Kent. He was just out there knocking on doors, getting the information out, and registering voters.

Kent was very, very good at that. He was one of my best campaign workers.

After that election, Kent joined my staff in Ames, IA, where Iowa University is located. He and I also shared the fact that we both came from very small towns. He came from Lamont, IA, in Buchanan County. I always kidded him that he was from a big town. His town, I think, had about 500 people and one stop light. My town of Cumming had about 150.

After I was elected in 1974, I remember talking with Kent about the fact that we were from small towns and no politician had ever visited our towns. A Congressman or a Senator was somebody who might go to Des Moines or Cedar Rapids but never came to small towns. We hit upon this idea of taking our office out to the small towns. I believe that Kent Hall was the first person to do that in Iowa.

As a congressional representative, he would go out and have open office hours in towns of 100 people, 150 people, 200 people. He would go to the post office, or if there wasn't a post office, the American Legion club, maybe a church basement, and have office hours in all these small towns around the district so that people who couldn't drive all the way to the district office would come and see him. It was a great outreach program. He initiated that, he started that in Iowa.

Kent also did my community development work, rural housing, rural water programs. He initiated some good programs for people living in small towns and communities at that time. Again, it was because Kent felt very strongly that Government—whatever else Government's functions are constitutionally—ought to be helping make life better for people who live in rural areas and small towns who do not have the access to the resources of those who may live in our bigger cities. He was always greatly interested in extending Government out to people who live in rural areas.

After his great work in Ames, Kent then came to Washington and received his doctorate degree in economics at George Washington University. He was a great economic thinker. During the 1980s, Kent was on the House Small Business Committee staff, and I had since come to the Senate in 1985. During some of the tough debates—the 1985 farm bill debate, the 1990 farm bill, and in between we had a credit bill we had to work on—I can always remember asking for Kent Hall's advice on a farm bill and especially on farm economics and agricultural economics. He really had an understanding of the economics of rural America and agriculture and small businesses and small towns that I found absolutely invaluable.

After that, then, of course, he joined the staff of Senator CONRAD of North Dakota. I listened to Senator CONRAD speak very eloquently about his association with Kent Hall.

Several years ago, Kent began dating a woman in my office from Algona, in

northern Iowa, by the name of Michelle Reilly. They got married in 1993 and had two small kids—Austin, who is now about 2, and Caite, who is 4. So his death leaves two small kids.

I want it to be known that Kent Hall was a wonderful human being, a personal friend, someone I admired and someone I regularly consulted on a lot of different matters—mainly agriculture and agricultural economics. Through it all, Kent remained a fine man.

A lot of times people live and then they are gone and you wonder what it all meant, especially when someone dies as young and as abruptly as Kent.

I am reminded of what John Kennedy once said when he was President. He was asked how he would like to be remembered after his passing on, whenever that would be. He responded with something I have never forgotten. He said "the highest"—I may not have the words correct, but basically he said:

The highest honor that can be given to a person is just to be remembered as a good and decent human being.

If we use that as the highest tribute we can give to any person, that they are remembered as a good and decent human being, then that tribute certainly belongs to Kent Hall.

He meant a great deal to his country. He meant a great deal to all of his friends, a great deal to Michelle, his wife, and to his two children. He meant a great deal to this Congress and this Senate. But above all this—above it all—we will always remember Kent Hall as a good and decent human being.

To Michelle, Caiti and Austin, to his parents Kenneth and Evelyn, to his brothers and sister back in Iowa, to all his many friends, my wife and I and our family extend our deepest sympathies. And we will always remember Kent Hall for the kind and decent human being that he always was.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to join this tribute to Kent Hall, following on the remarks offered by Senator HARKIN from Iowa and my colleague, Senator CONRAD from North Dakota.

I knew Kent Hall, who was Senator CONRAD's chief of staff, for 12 years in the time that he had served North Dakota and served with Senator CONRAD. I was shocked to learn Saturday morning that Kent had died Friday evening in his sleep.

I know how difficult it is for his family right now. I know how difficult it is for Senator CONRAD and his staff, the extended family that worked with Kent Hall and served with him in the Senate.

We lead busy, fast-paced and challenging lives here. Kent Hall was a part of that. We, from time to time, I suppose, forget to tell people what an integral role people like Kent Hall play to make this system of ours work. Kent

Hall was smart, was tough, and yet had a great sense of humor. He was a quick study. He worked very hard. He always had a twinkle in his eye. He was quite an extraordinary man.

He always, to me, had a certain dignity about him as well. When Kent was around in a meeting or with a group of people, he was always the one who had that certain sense of dignity. Yes, he had the sense of humor, but he had a sense of dignity that was unusual as well.

The last time I talked to Kent, I guess it was a couple of weeks ago before the August recess, and what we talked about then was what he talked about a lot—it was his children. We talked about our children. He leaves behind two young children. And we talked about them.

I know how difficult this must be now for his widow and his children. Kent Hall was a young man with a young family. He had an enormous commitment to that family. He also had a commitment to our State and to our country. That commitment was a commitment that was manifested every day in every way in his public service to all of us.

So today I express my sorrow and my sympathy for the passing of Kent Hall.

Emily Dickinson wrote a poem called "Because I could not stop for Death." I want to read two verses of it.

Because I could not stop for Death,  
He kindly stopped for me;  
The carriage held but just ourselves  
And Immortality.

We slowly drove, he knew no haste,  
And I had put away  
My labor, and my leisure too,  
For his civility.

It is very, very hard, for those of us who have seen too many at too young an age leave us, to understand any civility in a death like the death of Kent Hall. But I hope that his contributions, as a family man and as a public servant, will be known to his family and his children by these remarks and by other words that will be spoken in the coming days.

His children, I believe, are age 4 and 2. And I hope they will someday understand that their daddy was a very special man. Their father contributed to their family and their country in a very important way. And those of us who were privileged to call him a friend will miss him dearly.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. KYL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask that I may proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may proceed.